

- I. Claims 1-16 and 19-25, drawn to an adsorbent catalyst;
- II. Claims 17-18, drawn to a catalyst system comprising the adsorbent catalyst and a second catalyst, wherein the second catalyst positioned in front of the adsorbent catalyst; and
- III. Claims 26-34, drawn to a method of treating exhaust gas using an adsorbent catalyst or a catalyst system.

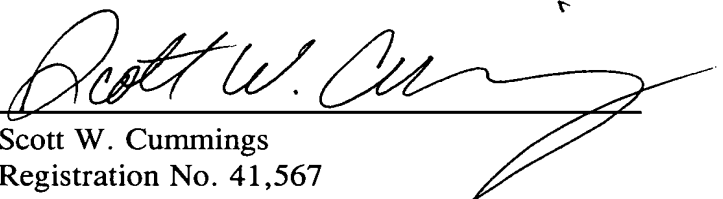
It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of Groups I, II and III is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one group would overlap with a search for the subject matter of the remaining group. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be performed without serious burden. MPEP §803 clearly states that "If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on its merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

From the foregoing, further and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested. Should any further issues arise with regard to prosecution of the instant application, it is requested that the undersigned be contacted so that any such issues may be adequately addressed and prosecution of the instant application expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

By: _____


Scott W. Cummings
Registration No. 41,567

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620

Date: November 4, 2002